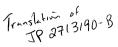
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CL AIMS

(57) [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The light source which carries out outgoing radiation of the light by which elliptically polarized light was carried out, and the polarizer which makes light from this light source the linearly polarized light, A means to rotate this polarizer to the circumference of an optical axis, and the optical frequency modulator which attaches the difference of beat frequency between polarization of the direction of X, and the direction of Y to the light from said polarizer, The analyzer which makes the component of the predetermined polarization direction of the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out from this optical frequency modulator penetrate, The optical property measuring device which is equipped with the photodetector which detects the light which had this analyzer penetrated as quantity of electricity, and a means to detect the phase of the AC signal of quantity of electricity detected with this photodetector, and to perform a predetermined operation, and is characterized by carrying out insertion arrangement of the sample in the preceding paragraph or the latter part of said optical frequency modulator.

[Claim 2] A means for the light source to consist of frequency stabilization laser which carries out outgoing radiation of the laser beam of the linearly polarized light, and a quarter-wave length plate which makes this laser beam by which outgoing radiation is carried out the circular polarization of light, for a polarizer and an analyzer to consist of Glan-Thompson prisms, for an optical frequency modulator to consist of optical frequency shifters, and for a photodetector to consist of photodiodes, and to detect a phase is the optical property measuring device of claim 1 which it comes to consist of a current potential converter, a phase meter, or a computer.

[Claim 3] The optical frequency modulator which attaches the difference of beat frequency between polarization of the direction of X, and the direction of Y to the light of elliptically polarized light, The analyzer which makes the component of the predetermined polarization direction of the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out from this optical frequency modulator penetrate. The optical property measuring device characterized by having the photodetector which detects the light which had this analyzer penetrated as quantity of electricity, and a means to detect the phase of the AC signal of quantity of electricity detected with this photodetector, and to perform a predetermined operation.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the measuring device for measuring the optical property for performing optical properties, such as dichroism including the birefringence needed in case an optical disk substrate, the liquid crystal orientation film, etc. are inspected, optical activity, and circular dichroism, analysis of a elliptically-polarized-light (perfect circle polarization is included) condition, etc.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Generally minute birefringence measurement is measurement required for inspection of an optical disk substrate or the liquid crystal luminous-intensity-distribution film among the optical properties of an optical element. There are a phase modulation measuring method using the photoelasticity modulation element as such a minute birefringence measuring method and a heterodyne measuring method using horizontal ZEMAN laser. Here, an example of a measuring method which used horizontal ZEMAN laser is explained with reference to <u>drawing 6</u>. The horizontal ZEMAN laser 101 carries out outgoing radiation of the two linearly polarized lights which intersected perpendicularly. Oscillation frequencies differ by the frequency to which these two linearly polarized lights are called beat frequency.

[0003] A part is reflected by this laser beam in a half mirror 102, incidence is carried out to a half-wave plate 103, by this half-wave plate 103, the polarization direction changes and incidence of the penetrated laser beam is carried out to a sample 104 on it. The laser beam which penetrated the sample 104 has a polarizer 105 passed, and is detected in a detector 106. Moreover, the laser beam reflected by said half mirror 102 is detected in the detector 107 for reference signs, after letting a polarizer 108 pass. And in a phase meter 109, the phase comparison of the signal detected in each detector 106,107 is carried out.

[0004] Here, the AC signal which consists of beat frequency is included in the signal detected with the detector 106, and the phase of this beat frequency shifts by the birefringence of a sample. Then, the phase of beat frequency is compared in a phase meter 109 to a reference sign, and the amount of birefringences of a sample can be calculated based on this phase contrast.

[0005] In this case, in order to measure the minute birefringence of a sample, it needed to measure changing incidence polarization bearing and sample side bearing, and rotating the sample itself until now was performed. However, since it is made difficult to rotate a sample as a sample is enlarged, rotating incidence polarization bearing came to be performed. As an approach of rotating this incidence polarization bearing, rotating a half-wave plate 102 to the circumference of an optical axis is performed with said measuring device. In this case, there is a half-wave plate 102, and when include-angle (theta) rotation is carried out, two times will carry out include-angle (2theta) rotation of the outgoing radiation polarization from a half-wave plate. Thus, rotating incidence polarization bearing to a sample side is performed by rotating a half-wave plate 102.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, generally it sees and a half-wave plate has the problem that the phase precision is low. A half-wave plate brings about 180-degree phase contrast between polarization of phase leading shaft bearing, and polarization of lagging-axis bearing, and if this phase contrast is 180 degrees correctly, it can acquire the outgoing radiation linearly polarized light

turning around the incidence linearly polarized light. However, when it shifts from 180 degrees, outgoing radiation light turns into elliptically polarized light, and becomes unsuitable for the above mentioned measurement in this way at a case. Usually, the phase precision of a half-wave plate is about 1 degree, and an error produces it in the amount of birefringences measured by this phase precision. Especially the amount of birefringences of the optical disk substrate as a sample or the liquid crystal orientation film to measure is 1 degree or less in many cases, and measurement of a minute birefringence becomes impossible according to the phase error of such a half-wave plate. [0007] Moreover, on the other hand, if the revolving shaft and optical axis of a half-wave plate are not correctly in agreement, the phase error by the half-wave plate becomes less fixed, and an error arises in the amount of birefringences measured by this cause. Furthermore, the oscillation light of horizontal ZEMAN laser shifts from the linearly polarized light, and may elliptically-polarized-light-ization is not strongly influenced in the condition of laser oscillation tubing, and does not necessarily become fixed each time at the time of measurement at each time. This ovality serves as a measurement error and it becomes impossible to measure the amount of birefringences of a sample correctly.

[8000]

[Objects of the Invention] The purpose of this invention is to offer the measuring device which can measure optical properties, such as the minute amount of birefringences and minute dichroism of a sample, optical activity, and circular dichroism, correctly and with high precision. Moreover, other purposes of this invention are to offer the measuring device for measuring the optical property for analyzing a elliptically-polarized-light condition.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The 1st measurement technique for measuring the above mentioned optical property in this invention Make into the linearly polarized light with a polarizer light by which elliptically polarized light was carried out, and incidence of this linearly polarized light is carried out to a sample and an optical frequency modulator. It is based on measuring the amount of birefringences of a sample based on the phase of the AC signal detected with the photodetector, a photodetector detecting the light by which outgoing radiation was carried out from these through an analyzer, and rotating said polarizer to the circumference of an optical axis.

[0010] <u>Drawing 1</u> is drawing showing the basic configuration of the 1st measuring device of this invention, from the light source 1, carries out outgoing radiation of the light L by which elliptically polarized light was carried out, and makes light L of this elliptically polarized light the linearly polarized light with a polarizer 2. As for this polarizer 2, it is possible to make it rotate to the circumference of an optical axis with the rotation means 3. And incidence of the light from this polarizer 2 is carried out to a sample 4, and incidence of the light which penetrated the sample 4 further is carried out to the optical frequency modulator 5 which attaches the difference of beat frequency between polarization of the direction of X, and the direction of Y. And an analyzer 6 is made to detect the component of the linearly polarized light of the predetermined direction of the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out from this optical frequency modulator 5, and a photodetector 7 detects by making into quantity of electricity light which had this analyzer 6 penetrated. The amount of birefringences of a sample is measured by detecting the phase of the AC signal of quantity of electricity detected with said photodetector 7 in the phase meter 8, and performing a predetermined operation in an appropriate top.

[0011] On the other hand, in this invention, the 2nd measurement technique for analyzing the condition of elliptically polarized light is based on analyzing the condition of elliptically polarized light based on the phase of the AC signal which detected with the photodetector the light which was made to penetrate an optical frequency modulator and was penetrated in the light of elliptically polarized light through the analyzer, and was detected with this photodetector.

[0012] <u>Drawing 2</u> shows the basic configuration of the 2nd measuring device of this invention. Namely, a photodetector 7 detects the light LX of the elliptically polarized light which is the measuring objected by making into quantity of electricity light which made the component of the linearly polarized light of the predetermined direction of the light by which incidence is carried out to the optical frequency modulator 5 which attaches the difference of beat frequency between polarization of the direction of X, and the direction of Y to this light, and outgoing radiation is carried out from this optical frequency

modulator 5 penetrate with an analyzer 6, and had this analyzer 6 penetrated. And it becomes possible to analyze the condition of elliptically polarized light by detecting the phase of the AC signal of quantity of electricity detected with the photodetector 7 of a phase meter 8 smell lever, and performing a predetermined operation.

[0013]

[Function] The example which measures the amount of birefringences of a sample using the 1st measuring device shown in <u>drawing 1</u> is explained. Elliptically polarized light penetrates a polarizer 2 and let it be the linearly polarized light the circular polarization of light from the light source 1 or the light of elliptically polarized light, and here. This linearly polarized light is shown by (several 1) when Jones PEKUTORU is used.

[0014]

[Equation 1]

$${Ax \choose Ay}$$

Here, Ax and Ay are the amounts of the real number decided by elliptically polarized light by which incidence is carried out.

[0015] Incidence of this linearly polarized light is carried out to a sample 4 and the optical frequency modulator 5 one by one. As shown in (several 2), if the amount of birefringences of a sample 4 is set to delta, the optical Jones vector of the linearly polarized light by which incidence was carried out to the sample 4 will be calculated.

[Equation 2]
$$\begin{bmatrix} exp(i\delta) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Ax \\ Ay \end{bmatrix}$$

[0016] Then, incidence is carried out to the optical frequency modulator 5, and a beat frequency omega difference is attached between polarization of the direction of X of the linearly polarized light, and the direction of Y. If phase contrast by the optical frequency modulator 5 at this time is set to omegat, it will be calculated as shown in (several 3).

[Equation 3]
$$\begin{bmatrix} \exp(i\omega t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \exp(i\delta) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Ax \\ Ay \end{bmatrix}$$

[0017] Then, the analyzer 6 adjusted in the direction of 45 degree is passed. The change by this is calculated as shown in (several 4).

[Equation 4]

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \exp(1\omega t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \exp(1\delta) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Ax \\ Ay \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, the amount of transmitted lights detected in a photodetector 7 is expressed with (several 5).

[0018]

[Equation 5]

$$-AxAy \cdot ccs (\delta + \omega t) + \frac{Ax^2}{2} + \frac{Ay^2}{2}$$

[0019] From now on, it will turn out that the amount of transmitted lights has the AC signal of a frequency omega. Moreover, the amount delta of birefringences of a sample 4 can be measured by measuring the phase contrast of this AC signal in a phase meter 8.

[0020] Moreover, the 2nd measuring device shown in <u>drawing 2</u> explains the 2nd measuring method. Since the sample does not exist, the above mentioned amount delta of birefringences is set to 0, and the amount of transmitted lights is decided by the component of the elliptically polarized light by

which incidence is carried out. From this, if time amount change of the transmitted light is measured, Ax and Ay can be determined. Therefore, it becomes possible to determine the condition of the elliptically polarized light of arbitration. However, it is necessary to take the phase contrast of Ax and Ay into consideration in this case.

[0021] That is, the elliptically polarized light made applicable to analysis is written as shown in (several 6)

[Equation 6]

[0022] Here, if phi and delta are determined, a elliptically-polarized-light condition can be analyzed. Then, count of being the same as that of the case of the 1st measuring method (several 7) is performed.

 $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \exp(i\omega t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tan \phi \cdot e^{i\Delta} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

[0023] Consequently, the amount of transmitted lights is calculated as shown in (several 8).

 $\frac{\sin 3\phi + \sin \phi}{2\cos \phi \left(1 - \cos 2\phi\right)} = \cos \left(\omega t + \Delta\right) = \frac{1}{1 + \cos 2\phi}$

[0024] From this, delta can be determined by measuring the phase contrast of the AC signal of the amount of transmitted lights. Moreover, phi can be determined by measuring the ratio of an AC signal and a direct current signal. Therefore, it becomes analyzable [a elliptically-polarized-light condition]. [0025]

[Example] Next, the example of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing. <u>Drawing 3</u> is drawing showing the example of the 1st measuring method and a measuring device. In this configuration, the frequency stabilization HeNe laser 11 (Japanese science engineering company make, MODEL-430) with an oscillation wavelength of 633nm was used as the light source 1. Laser oscillation light is the linearly polarized light. The phase leading shaft of the quarter—wave length plate 12 which consists of a quartz plate has been arranged so that the location of 45 degrees may be made to linearly polarized light bearing of laser oscillation light. The outgoing radiation light from the quarter—wave length plate 12 turns into the circular polarization of light. Incidence of this outgoing radiation light is carried out to Glan—Thompson prism 2 which is a polarizer. This Glan—Thompson prism can make it rotate with the stepping motor 3 which is a rotation means.

[0026] What carried out rubbing of the rubbing orientation film (the Japan Synthetic Rubber Co., Ltd. make, AL1051), i.e., the polyimide thin film which formed membranes on the glass substrate, with the rayon cloth as a sample 4 which is a device under test was used. This sample 4 is attached for example, in a sample stage, and incidence of the laser beam is carried out. Furthermore, the optical frequency shifter 5 (the product made from Hova–SCHOTT, W–210) controlled by the controller 13 as an optical frequency modulator was used. 50kHz was chosen as beat frequency.

[0027] Incidence of the outgoing radiation light from the optical frequency shifter 5 was carried out to Glan-Thompson prism 6 which is an analyzer, and incidence of the outgoing radiation light from it was carried out to the silicon photodiode 7 which is a photodetector. After letting the photocurrent of a photodiode 7 pass to the current potential converter 14 (case lei company make, 428 molds) and changing into an electrical potential difference, the reference sign of a phase meter 8 inputted into the phase meter 8 (the product made from DORANETTSU, 305C) was supplied from the controller 13 of the optical frequency shifter 5. The analog output of a phase meter 8 was inputted into the voltmeter 15 (case lei 2001 mold).

[0028] Concrete measurement measured the output of a voltmeter 15, rotating Glan-Thompson prism 2 with a stepping motor 3, before inserting a sample 4. Then, the sample 4 was inserted and same

measurement was performed. And the difference of two measurement results was searched for. A result is shown in <u>drawing 4</u>. Thus, the result which shows change with the period of two times to one revolution of Glan-Thompson prism 2 as a polarizer was obtained. The amplitude of this two-times period is about 0.4 degrees. From now on, it turned out that the amount of birefringences of the measured rubbing orientation film is 0.4 mm.

[0029] Moreover, since the degree of polarization of the polarizer which consists of Glan-Thompson prisms 2 is very high according to this example, the error by phase precision [as / in a half-wave plate] being low does not occur. Furthermore, since it is not necessary to give a modulation function to the light source 1 which outputs a laser beam, the measurement stabilized without being based on the polarization condition of a laser light source is attained.

[0030] In addition, although incidence of the light from a polarizer 2 is previously carried out to a sample 4 in said example and then incidence is carried out to the optical frequency modulator 5, incidence is previously carried out to this reverse at the optical frequency modulator 5, and incidence may be made to be carried out to a sample 4 behind.

[0031] It is using the 2nd measuring device of above mentioned this invention, and adding a polarizer 2 to this like the 1st measuring device, and <u>drawing 5</u> is drawing showing the example which enabled measurement of the amount of birefringences of a sample 4 while it analyzes a elliptically-polarized-light condition. The light from the frequency stabilization HeNe laser 11 (Japanese science engineering company make, MODEL-430) with an oscillation wavelength of 633nm passes the quarterwave length plate 12, is made into elliptically polarized light, passes Glan-Thompson prism 2 which is a polarizer on it, and is taken as the linearly polarized light.

[0032] Then, the front face of a sample 4 is made to carry out incidence of the laser beam at 70 degrees of incident angles. Incidence polarization bearing at this time is adjusted so that it may become the include angle of 45 degrees from the plane of incidence of a sample 4. The reflected light from a sample side passes the optical frequency shifter (the product made from Hoya-SCHOTT, S-210) 5 as an optical frequency modulator. As a sample 4, the thin silicon oxide which formed membranes on the surface of the silicon wafer is used. After the reflected light of a sample passes Glan-Thompson prism 6 which is an analyzer, incidence of it is carried out to the silicon photodiode 7 as a photodetector.

[0033] Furthermore, the photocurrent detected with the silicon photodiode 7 is changed into an electrical potential difference by the current potential converter (case lei company make, 428 molds). This voltage waveform is recorded with a storage oscilloscope 16. It analyzes by inputting this recorded voltage waveform into a personal computer 17.

[0034] Consequently, as shown in (several 8), a voltage waveform consists of a dc component and an alternating current component, and can determine delta as 270 degrees by reading the phase contrast of the alternating current component before and behind sample insertion. Furthermore, phi can be determined as 74 degrees by asking for the amplitude of an alternating current signal component, and the ratio of a direct current signal component. And according to count of the usual ellipsometry, the thickness of silicon oxide has been determined as 150nm from this phi and delta.

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, according to the 1st measuring device of this invention, light by which elliptically polarized light was carried out is made into the linearly polarized light with a polarizer. A photodetector detects the light by which was made to carry out incidence of this to a sample and an optical frequency modulator, and outgoing radiation was carried out from these through an analyzer. And optical properties including the birefringence of a sample can be measured by measuring the amount of birefringences of a sample based on the phase of the AC signal detected with the photodetector, rotating a polarizer. A half-wave plate becomes unnecessary by this, and the error of the amount of birefringences to measure can be reduced.

[0036] As opposed to the light source which carries out outgoing radiation of the light to which elliptically polarized light of the 1st measuring device of this invention was carried out Moreover, a polarizer pivotable to the circumference of an optical axis, The optical frequency modulator which attaches the difference of beat frequency between polarization of the direction of X and the direction of Y to the light from a polarizer, The analyzer which makes the component of the predetermined polarization direction of the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out from this optical frequency

modulator penetrate, By having the photodetector which detects the light which had this analyzer penetrated as quantity of electricity, and a means to detect the phase of the AC signal of quantity of electricity detected with this photodetector, and to perform a predetermined operation Optical properties including the amount of birefringences of the sample which carried out insertion arrangement can be measured with high precision in the preceding paragraph or the latter part of an optical frequency modulator.

[0037] Here, with constituting from frequency stabilization laser which carries out outgoing radiation of the laser beam of the linearly polarized light for the light source, and a quarter—wave length plate which makes this laser beam by which outgoing radiation is carried out the circular polarization of light, the stable elliptically polarized light can be outputted and the accuracy of measurement can be raised. Moreover, high polarization of degree of polarization can be acquired with constituting a polarizer from a Glan-Thompson prism, and the measurement error by phase precision like a half—wave plate does not occur.

[0038] According to the 2nd measuring device of this invention, the condition of elliptically polarized light is analyzable by a photodetector detecting the light which was made to penetrate an optical frequency modulator and was penetrated in the light of elliptically polarized light through an analyzer, and detecting ****** of an AC signal with this photodetector.

[0039] Moreover, the optical frequency modulator with which the 2nd measuring device of this invention attaches the difference of beat frequency between polarization of the direction of X, and the direction of Y to the light of elliptically polarized light, The analyzer which makes the component of the predetermined polarization direction of the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out from this optical frequency modulator penetrate, It can do [analyzing the condition of elliptically polarized light, or] by having the photodetector which detects the light which had this analyzer penetrated as quantity of electricity, and a means to detect the phase of the AC signal of quantity of electricity detected with this photodetector, and to perform a predetermined operation. Moreover, it is also possible to perform the 1st measuring method by adding a polarizer.

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing showing the basic configuration of the 1st measuring method of this invention, and a measuring device.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing the basic configuration of the 2nd measuring method of this invention, and a measuring device.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing showing the configuration of one example of the 1st measuring device of this invention.

[<u>Drawing 4</u>] It is drawing showing an example of the measurement result by the 1st measuring method of this invention.

[<u>Drawing 5]</u> It is drawing showing the configuration which applies the 2nd measuring device of this invention and performs the 1st measuring method and 2nd measuring method. [Drawing 6] It is drawing showing the configuration of an example of the conventional double tropism

measuring device.
[Description of Notations]

- 1 Light Source
- 2 Polarizer
- 3 Rotation Means
- 4 Sample
- 5 Optical Frequency Modulator
- 6 Analyzer
- 7 Photodetector
- 8 Phase Meter
- 11 Frequency Stabilization HeNe Laser
- 12 Quarter-wave Length Plate
- 13 Controller
- 14 Current Potential Converter
- 15 Voltmeter
- 16 Storage Oscilloscope
- 17 Personal Computer

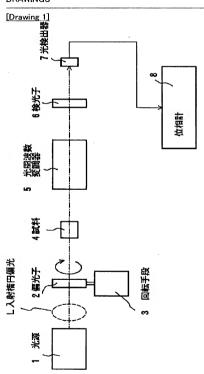
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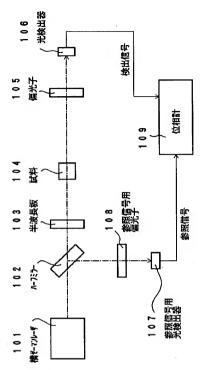
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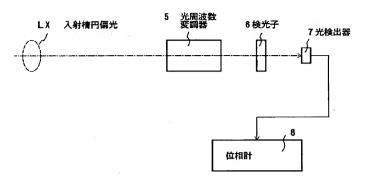
DRAWINGS

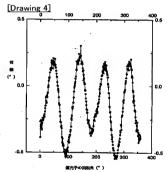


[Drawing 6]

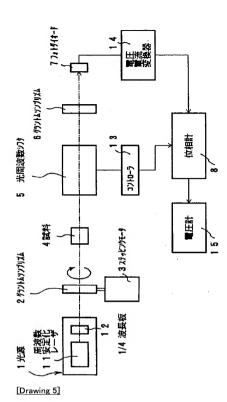


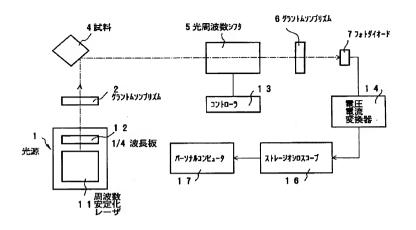
[Drawing 2]





[Drawing 3]





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(73)特許権者 000004237

日本電気株式会社

(72)発明者

東京都港区芝五丁目7番1号 住吉 研

東京都港区芝五丁目7番1号 日本電気

株式会社内 人 弁理士 鈴木 意夫

(74)代理人 弁理士

審査官 樋口 宗彦

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(54) 【発明の名称】 光学特性測定装置

(57)【特許請求の節用】

【請求項1】 楕円偏光された光を出射する光源と、この光源からの光を直線偏光とする儒光子と、この偶光子を光軸回りに回転させる手段と、前記偶光子からの光に対してX方向とY方向の偏光間にビート周波数の差を付ける光周波数変調器から出射される光の所定偏光が方向の成分を透過させる検光子と、この検光子を透過された光を電気量として検出する光検出器で検出されて短気量の交流信号の位相を検出して所定の算事を行う手段とを備え、前記光周10 複数変調器の前段或いば後段に試料を介押配置することを特徴とする光学特性測定装置。

【請求項2】 光源は直線偏光のレーザ光を出射する周波数安定化レーザと、この出射されるレーザ光を円偏光とする1/4波長板とで構成され、偏光子と検光子はグ

2

ラントムソンプリズムで構成され、光周波数変調器は光 周波数シフタで構成され、光検出器はフォトダイオード で構成され、位相を検出する手段は電流電圧変換器と位 相談いはコンピュータで構成されてなる請求項1の光 学特性測定装置。

【請求項3】 楕円偏光の光に対してX方向とY方向の 偏光間にビート周波数の整を付ける光周波数変調器と、 この光周波数変調器から出射される光の所定偏光方向の 成分を透過させる検光子と、この検光子を透過された光 10 を電気量として検出する光検出器と、この光検出器で検 出された電気量の交流信号の位相を検出して所定の演算 を行う手段とを備えることを特徴とする光学特性測定装 層。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は北ディスク基板や液晶配 向膜等を検査する際に必要とされる複配折を始めとし て、二色性、旋光性、円二色性等の光学特性や、楕円偏 米で、(真円偏光を含む) 状態の解析等を行うための光学特 性を測定するための測定装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】一般に光学要素の光学特性のうち。例えば飲小な復居が測定は光ディスク基板や液晶配光膜の検査に必要な測定である。このような微小な復居が測定方法を、機ピーマンレーザを用いた心を用いた測定方法がある。ここでは横ピーマンレーザを用いた測定方法の例を図6を参照して説明する。横ピーマンレーザ101は、直交した2つの直線偏光を出射する。この2つの直線偏光はビート周波数と呼ばれる周波数分だけ発振周波数が異なっている。

[0003] このレーザ光はハーフミラー102において一部が反射され、透過されたレーザ光は実験板103によって偏光方向が変化され、その上で試料104に入射される。試料1020名透過したレーザ光は、偏光子105を通過され、検出器106において検出される。また、前記ハーフミラー102で反射されたレーザ光は偏光子108を通された上で参照信号用検出器107において検出される。そして、各検出器106,107において検出された信号は位相計109において検出をある。

【0004】ここで、検出器106で検出された信号に はビート周変数からなる交流信号が含まれており、試料 域極折によってこのビート周波数の位相がずれる。そ こで、ビート周波数の位相を参照信号に対して位相計1 09において比較し、この位相差に基づいて試料の模屈 折畳を求めることができる。

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、一般的 にみて、半波長板はその位相特度が低いという問題があ る。半波長板は進相軸方位の偏光と、遅相軸方位の偏光 との間に180°の位相差をもたらすものであり、この 50

位相差が正確に180°であるならば、入射直線偏光を 回転した出射直線偏光を得ることができる。ところが、 180°からずれた場合には出射光は楕円偏光となって しまい、このように場合には前記した測定には不向きと なる。通常、半該長板の位相構度は1°程度であり、こ の位相精度によって測定される視肥折量に誤差が生じ る。特に、測定する試料としての光ディスク基板や液晶 配向膜の複磨折量は1°以下である場合が多く、このよ うな半波長板の位相誤差によって彼小な複磨折の測定が 10 できなくなることがある。

[0007]また、一方では、半接長板の回転軸と光軸 が正確に一致していなければ、半接長板による位相誤差 が一定でなくなり、この原因によっても測定される復居 折量に誤差が生じる。更に、横ゼーマンレーザの発振光 が直線簡光からずれ、楕円個光化することもある。この 楕円偏光化はしーザ発展管の状態に強く左右されるもの であり、毎回毎回の測定時に一定になるとは限らない。 この楕円率が測定影差となり、正確に試料の復屈折量を 測定することができなくなる。

[0008]

【発明の目的】本発明の目的は、試料の微小な複屈折量 や二色性、旋光性、円二色性等の光学特性を正確にしか も高精度に測定することが可能な測定装置を提供するこ とにある。また、本発明の他の目的は、楕円偏光状態の 解析を行うための光特性を測定するための測定装置を提 供することにある。

[00009]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明において、前記した光学特性を測定するための第1の測定技施は、楕円偏光された光を偏光子によって直線偏光とし、この直線偏光とし、それらから出射された光を検光子を通して光検出器にて検出し、前記偏光子を光軸回りに回転させながら光検出器にて検出された交流信号の位相に基づいて試料の複屈折量を測定することに基づく。

【0010】図1は本発明の第1の測定装置の基本構成を示す図であり、光源1からは楕円偏光された光上を出射し、この楕円偏光の光上を偏光子2によって直線偏光とする。この個光子2は回転手段3によって光軸回りに回転させることが可能である。そして、この個光子2からの光を試料4に入射させ、さらに試料4を透過した光と大方向とソ方向の偏光間にビート周波数の差を付ける光周波数変調器5に入射させる。そして、この光周波数変調器5から出射される光の所定方向の直線偏光の成分を検光子6により検出される光の所定方向の直線偏光の成分を検光子6と近過された光を電気量として光検出器7により検出する。しかる上で、佐相計8において前配光検出器7で検出された電気量の交流信号の位相を検出し、所定の演算を行うことで談料の複彫折低を測定する。

【0011】一方、本発明において、楕円偏光の状態を

解析するための第2の測定技術は、楕円偏光の光を光周 波数変調器を透過させ、透過された光を検光子を通して 光枪出器にて検出し、この光検出器にて検出された交流 信号の位相に基づいて楕円偏光の状態を解析することに 基づく。

【0012】図2は本発明の第2の測定装置の基本構成 を示している。即ち、被測定対象である楕円偏光の光1. Xは、この光に対してX方向とY方向の偏光間にビート 周波数の差を付ける光周波数変調器5に入射され、この 光周波数変調器5から出射される光の所定方向の直線偏 10 光の成分を検光子6によって汚過させ、この検光子6を 誘過された光を電気量として光棒出器7により検出す る。そして、位相計8においてこの光検出器7で検出さ れた電気量の交流信号の位相を検出して所定の演算を行 うことで、楕円偏光の状態を解析することが可能とな る。

[0.013]

【作用】図1に示した第1の測定装置を用いて試料の複 屈折量を測定する例を説明する。光源1からの円偏光ま して直線偏光とされる。この直線偏光は、ジョーンズペ クトルを用いると、(数1)で示される。

[0014]

【数1】

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\
-\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2}
\end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \exp(1\omega t) \\
0$$

したがって、光検出器7において検出される透過光量は (数5) で現される。

[0018]

【数5】

$$-AxAy \cdot \cos (\delta + \omega t) + \frac{Ax^2}{2} + \frac{Ay^2}{2}$$

【0019】これから、透過光量は周波数 ω の交流信号 40 をもつことが判る。また、この交流信号の位相差を位相 計8において測定することにより、試料4の複屈折量δ を測定することができる。

【0020】また、図2に示した第2の測定装置により 第2の測定方法を説明する。 試料が存在していないた め、前記した複屈折量δは0となり、透過光量は入射さ れる楕円偏光の成分によって決まる。これより、透過光 *ここで、Ax、Avは、入射される楕円偏光によって決 まる実数の量である。

【0015】この直線偏光は、試料4および光周波数変 調器5に順次入射される。試料4の薄尾折量を8とする と、試料4に入射された直線偏光の光ジョーンズベクト ルけ (数2) のように計算される

$$\begin{bmatrix} exp(i\delta) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Ax \\ Ay \end{bmatrix}$$

【0016】この後、光周波数変調器5に入射され、直 線偏光のX方向とY方向の偏光間にビート周波数 ω 差が 付けられる。このときの光周波数変調器5による位相差 をωtとすると、(数3)のように計算される。

$$\begin{bmatrix} 33 \\ \exp(i\omega t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \exp(i\delta) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Ax \\ Ay \end{bmatrix}$$

【0017】その後、45°方向に調整された検光子6 たは楕円偏光の光。ここでは楕円偏光は偏光子2を诱渦 20 を涌渦する。これによる変化は(数4)のように計算さ れる。

[数4]

の時間変化を測定すれば、Ax、Avが決定できる。し たがって、任意の楕円偏光の状態を決定することが可能 となる。ただし、この場合AxとAvの位相差を考慮す る必要がある。

【0021】即ち、解析対象とする楕円偏光を(数6) のように表記する。

【数6】

【0022】ここで、øとΔが決定されれば、楕円偏光 状態が解析できることになる。そこで、第1の測定方法 の場合と同様に(数7)の計算を行う。

【数7】

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \exp(i\omega t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tan \phi \cdot e^{i\Delta} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

【0023】この結果 透過光量は(数8)のように求 められる。

$$\frac{\sin 3\phi + \sin \phi}{2\cos \phi (1 - \cos 2\phi)} \cos (\omega t + \Delta) = \frac{1}{1 + \cos 2\phi}$$

【0024】これより、透過光量の交流信号の位相差を 測定することにより、△が決定できる。また、交流信号 と直流信号の比を測定することでもを決定することがで きる。したがって、楕円偏光状態の解析が可能となる。 [0025]

【実施例】次に、本発明の実施例を図面を参照して説明 する。図3は第1の測定方法及び測定装置の具体例を示 す図である。この構成においては、光源1として発振波 長633nmの周波数安定化HeNeレーザ11 (日本 科学エンジニアリング社製、MODEL-430) を用 20 いた。レーザ発振光は直線偏光である。水晶板からなる 1/4波長板12の進相軸をレーザ発振光の直線偏光方 位に対して45°の位置をなすように配置した。1/4 波長板12からの出射光は円偏光となる。この出射光を 偏光子であるグラントムソンプリズム2に入射させる。 このグラントムソンプリズムは回転手段であるステッピ ングモータ3によって回転させることができる。

【0026】被測定物である試料4として、ラビング配 向膜、すなわちガラス基板上に成膜したポリイミド薄膜 (日本合成ゴム社製、AL1051) をレーヨン布でラ 30 ビングしたものを用いた。この試料4を例えば試料ステ ージに取り付けて、レーザ光を入射させる。更に、光周 波数変調器としてコントローラ13により制御される光 周波数シフタ5 (HOYA-SCHOTT社製, W-2 10)を用いた。ビート周波数として50KHzを選ん だ。

【0027】光周波数シフタ5からの出射光を検光子で あるグラントムソンプリズム6に入射させ、それからの 出射光を光検出器であるシリコンフォトダイオード7に 入射させた。フォトダイオード7の光電流は、電流電圧 40 変換器14 (ケースレイ社製、428型) に通して電圧 に変換した後、位相計8 (ドラネッツ社製, 305C) に入力した、位相計8の参照信号は、光周波数シフタ5 のコントローラ13から供給した。位相計8のアナログ 出力を電圧計15 (ケースレイ 2001型) に入力し た。

【0028】具体的な測定は、試料4を挿入前にグラン トムソンプリズム2をステッピングモータ3により回転 させながら電圧計15の出力を測定した。この後、試料 結果の差を求めた。結果を図4に示す。このように、偏 光子としてのグラントムソンプリズム2の一回転に対し て二倍の周期での変化を示す結果が得られた。この二倍 周期の振幅は0.4°程度である。これから、測定した ラビング配向膜の複屈折量は0.4 nmであることが判 った。

【0029】また、この実施例によれば、グラントムソ ンプリズム2で構成される偏光子の偏光度は非常に高い ため、半波長板におけるような位相精度が低いことによ る誤差が発生することはない。更に、レーザ光を出力す る光源1に変調機能をもたせる必要がないため、レーザ 光源の偏光状態によらずに安定した測定が可能となる。 【0030】なお、前記実施例では偏光子2からの光が 先に試料4に入射され、次に光周波数変調器5に入射さ れているが、この逆に、先に光周波数変調器5に入射さ れ、後に試料4に入射されるようにしてもよい。

【0031】図5は前記した本発明の第2の測定装置を 利用し、これに第1の測定装置と同様に偏光子2を付加 することで、楕円偏光状態の解析を行うと共に、試料4 の複屈折量の測定を可能にした実施例を示す図である。 発振波長633nmの周波数安定化HeNeレーザ11 (日本科学エンジニアリング社製、MODEL-43 0)からの光は、1/4波長板12を涌渦して楕円偏光 とされ、その上で偏光子であるグラントムソンプリズム 2を通過させ直線偏光とする。

【0032】その後、レーザ光を試料4の表面に入射角 70°で入射させる。このときの入射偏光方位を試料4 の入射面から45°の角度となるように調整する。試料 面からの反射光は光周波数変調器としての光周波数シフ タ (HOYA-SCHOTT社製, S-210) 5を通 過させる。試料4としては、シリコンウェハの表面に成 膜した薄いシリコン酸化膜を用いる。試料の反射光は検 光子であるグラントムソンプリズム6を通過した後、光 検出器としてのシリコンフォトダイオード7に入射され

【0033】更に、シリコンフォトダイオード7で輸出 された光電流は電流電圧変換器 (ケースレイ社製、42 8型)によって電圧に変換される。この電圧波形をスト レージオシロスコープ16で記録する。この記録した電 4を挿入し、同様の測定を行った。そして、2つの測定 50 圧波形をパーソナルコンピュータ17に入力し、解析を 行う.

【0034】この結果、(数8) から判るように、電圧 波形は直流成分と交流成分とよりなり、試料挿入前後の 交流成分の位相差を読み取ることにより、 Δを 2 7 0° と決定することができる。更に、交流信号成分の振幅と 直流信号成分の比を求めることによりaを74°と決定 することができる。そして、通常のエリプソメトリの計 算に従い、この ø 及び Δ よりシリコン酸化膜の厚さを 1 50 n m と決定できた。.

[0035]

【発明の効果】以上説明したように本発明の第1の測定 装置によれば、楕円偏光された光を偏光子によって直線 偏光とし、これを試料および光周波数変調器に入射さ せ、これらから出射された光を検光子を通して光検出器 にて検出し、かつ偏光子を回転させながら光検出器にて 検出された交流信号の位相に基づいて試料の複屈折量を 測定することにより、試料の複屈折を始めとする光学特 性を測定することができる。これにより、半波長板が不 要となり、測定する複屈折量の誤差を低減することがで きる。

【0036】また、本発明の第1の測定装置は、楕円偏 光された光を出射する光源に対して光軸回りに回転可能 な偏光子と、偏光子からの光に対してX方向とY方向の 偏光間にビート周波数の差を付ける光周波数変調器と、 この光周波数変調器から出射される光の所定偏光方向の 成分を透過させる検光子と、この検光子を透過された光 を電気量として検出する光検出器と、この光検出器で検 出された電気量の交流信号の位相を検出して所定の演算 を行う手段とを備えることにより、光周波数変調器の前 段或いは後段に介挿配置した試料の複屈折畳を始めとす 30 る光学特性を高精度に測定することができる。

【0037】ここで、光源を直線偏光のレーザ光を出射 する周波数安定化レーザと、この出射されるレーザ光を 円偏光とする1/4波長板とで構成することで、安定し た楕円偏光を出力することができ、測定精度を高めるこ とができる。また、偏光子をグラントムソンプリズムで 構成することで、偏光度の高い偏光を得ることができ、 半波長板のような位相精度による測定誤差が発生するこ とはない。

【0038】本発明の第2の測定装置によれば、楕円偏 40 光の光を光周波数変調器を透過させ、透過された光を検 光子を通して光検出器にて検出し、この光検出器にて交

10 流信号の位相にを検出することで、楕円偏光の状態を解 析することができる。

【0039】また、本発明の第2の測定装置は、楕円偏 光の光に対してX方向とY方向の偏光間にビート周波数 の差を付ける光周波数変調器と、この光周波数変調器か ら出射される光の所定偏光方向の成分を透過させる検光 子と、この検光子を添過された光を電気量として検出す る光検出器と、この光検出器で検出された電気量の交流 信号の位相を検出して所定の演算を行う手段とを備える 10 ことにより、楕円偏光の状態を解析することかできる。

また、偏光子を付加することで、第1の測定方法を実行 することも可能である。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の第1の測定方法と測定装置の基本構成 を示す図である。

【図2】本発明の第2の測定方法と測定装置の基本構成 を示す図である。

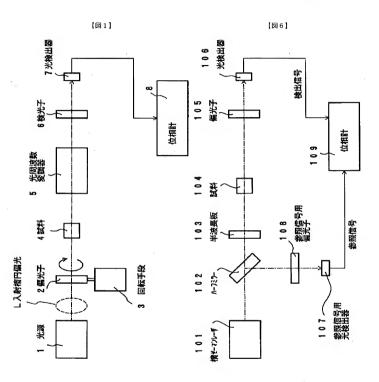
【図3】本発明の第1の測定装置の一実施例の構成を示 す図である。

【図4】本発明の第1の測定方法による測定結果の一例 を示す図である。

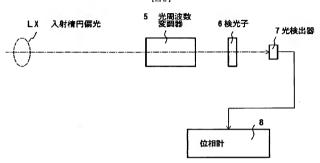
【図5】 本発明の第2の測定装置を応用して第1の測定 方法及び第2の測定方法を行う構成を示す図である。 【図6】従来の複屈性測定装置の一例の構成を示す図で

ある。 【符号の説明】

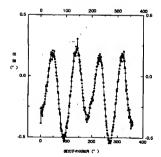
- 1 光源
- 2 偏光子
- 3 回転手段
- 試料 5 光周波数変調器
- 検光子
- 7 光綸出器
- 8 位相計
- 11 周波数安定化HeNeレーザ
- 12 1/4波長板
- 13 コントローラ
- 14 電流電圧変換器
- 16 ストレージオシロスコープ
 - 17 パーソナルコンピュータ

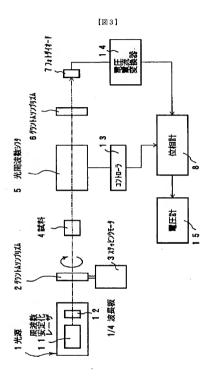


【図2】









【図5】

